United Nations A/64/261

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 August 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Item 98 of the provisional agenda*
Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits to the General Assembly the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute for the period from August 2008 to July 2009 and the proposed programme of work and estimated budget for 2009 and 2010.

The report was considered and approved for submission to the General Assembly by the Board of Trustees of the Institute at the fifty-second session of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, held from 1 to 3 July 2009.

* A/64/150.

09-44742 (E) 250809

Please recycle

Report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute for the period from August 2008 to July 2009 and the proposed programme of work and budget for 2009-2010

Summary

In 1984, the General Assembly issued a standing request for the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to report on a yearly basis to the Assembly on the activities of the Institute. The Director prepared the present report covering the activities of the Institute during the period from August 2008 to July 2009 for the consideration of the Board of Trustees of the Institute at the fifty-second session of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, held from 1 to 3 July 2009.

The UNIDIR work programme continued to be centred on three main areas: global security and disarmament, regional security and disarmament, and human security and disarmament. Over the past year, the international security context for the Institute's work has changed dramatically. This has led UNIDIR, under the auspices of new Director, Theresa Hitchens, to reconsider the structure of the Institute's programme of work in order to maintain its relevance.

A subvention from the United Nations regular budget is the guarantee of the independence of UNIDIR. By means of the present report, the Board of Trustees transmits to the Secretary-General a recommendation for a subvention for the Institute from the regular budget for the biennium 2010-2011. In 2005, the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/89, recommending that the Secretary-General implement the relevant recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the decisions of the Board of Trustees of the Institute (recommending that costs of the core staff of the Institute should be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations) and continue to seek ways to increase the funding of the Institute, within existing resources. The Director notes that the subvention now covers only about 20 per cent of these costs.

The Director also reports on the status of the voluntary funds from Governments and philanthropic foundations, which comprise about 90 per cent of the Institute's budget and provide financing for all operational costs.

Finally, UNIDIR will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary in 2010. The Director reports that the Institute will seek to broaden and deepen its support to the disarmament community in the future.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	4
II.	Management and staffing	4
III.	Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	4
IV.	Recent and ongoing activities	5
	A. Global security and disarmament	5
	B. Regional security and disarmament	8
	C. Human security and disarmament	10
V.	Networking, dissemination and outreach	12
	A. Networking	12
	B. Dissemination	13
	C. Outreach	13
VI.	Publications	14
VII.	Prospective research activities: 2009-2011	15
Annexes		
I.	Income and expenditure for 2007 and 2008 and estimates for 2009 and 2010	17
II.	Resource requirements: 2007-2010	18
III.	Voluntary contributions for 2007 and 2008 and current status for 2009 and 2010	22
IV.	Current status of 2009 estimated income from voluntary sources	24
V.	Estimated core staff requirements and subvention from the United Nations regular budget for 2009 and 2010	26

I. Introduction

1. The present report covers the activities of UNIDIR during the period August 2008 to July 2009 and the proposed programme of work and estimated budget for 2009-2010. The 2008-2009 period covered by the report was characterized by increased outreach and relations with the United Nations system.

2. The international security context for the work of UNIDIR has changed dramatically over the past year. Perhaps most indicative, the Conference on Disarmament, on 29 May 2009 — after 12 years of stalemate — adopted a programme of work. Nonetheless, there remain serious challenges to peace and security.

3. To better address these changing circumstances, UNIDIR is beginning a process to restructure its programme of work, staffing system and other processes, as well as to develop an accompanying fund-raising strategy. UNIDIR is further working with other independent United Nations research and training institutes to harmonize procedures and to improve capabilities/resource management. These efforts coincide with, and are complementary to, preparations to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of UNIDIR in 2010.

II. Management and staffing

4. Over the 2008-2009 period, the work of UNIDIR has been carried out with a dedicated total of 24 staff, 2 of whom were directing staff, 3 support staff (administrative and technical), 5 core substantive programme staff, and 14 project research staff.

5. Dr. Patricia Lewis, Director, left in August 2008 and in January 2009, a new Director, Theresa Hitchens, was appointed at the Institute.

6. The UNIDIR fellowship programme brings visiting research fellows to Geneva for a period of one to six months. In 2008-2009, the UNIDIR "Disarmament as humanitarian action" and "The road from Oslo" projects hosted two fellows for a period of three months each. Also in June 2009, UNIDIR was joined by a second Senior Resident Fellow. Nine young researchers from six countries also worked at UNIDIR during the reporting period.

III. Subvention from the United Nations regular budget

7. The Board of Trustees continues to attach utmost importance to the grant of a subvention to the Institute from a financial perspective as well as to safeguard the autonomy and independence of the Institute. A subvention is necessary for the coming biennium. By means of the present report, the Board of Trustees transmits to the Secretary-General a recommendation for a subvention for the Institute from the regular budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

8. Continuing support for the subvention's increase and continuing cost adjustment is essential to facilitating growth in voluntary income for the Institute. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/272, a note by the Secretary-General on the continuing need for a subvention for UNIDIR was

submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on 24 September 2004 (A/C.5/59/3/Add.1). The United Nations subvention was designed under article 7 of the UNIDIR charter to cover the costs of the Director and core staff. In 2005, General Assembly adopted resolution 60/89 recommending that the Secretary-General implement the relevant recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the decisions of the Board of Trustees of the Institute (recommending that costs of the core staff of the Institute should be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations) and continue to seek ways to increase funding within existing resources. However, the subvention in recent history has covered only about 20 per cent of these costs, or about 10 per cent of the Institute's overall budget (see annex V to the present report).

9. The vast majority (90 per cent) of the UNIDIR budget is raised from donor Governments and foundations, on a project-by-project basis. The budget for 2009 is estimated at $3,671,800 and the estimated budget for 2010 is $2,253,900 (see annexes). However, the 2010 figures include only projects that are confirmed — this estimate will increase as the Institute receives pledges for projects under development.

IV. Recent and ongoing activities

10. The Institute's research programme comprises three areas: global security and disarmament, regional security and disarmament, and human security and disarmament. As part of the effort to better implement its mandate in a changing environment, UNIDIR is considering the development of a new set of specific programmatic activities.

A. Global security and disarmament

11. Much of the work of UNIDIR addresses global security and disarmament. This includes research on the implementation of treaties and current or potential negotiations, as well as exploring possible avenues for progress in other domains.

1. Conference on Disarmament

12. UNIDIR continues to be engaged in a range of consultations, discussions and seminars relating to the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

13. As part of its efforts to identify ways for the Conference on Disarmament to advance on a programme of work, UNIDIR produced a paper entitled "Getting the Conference on Disarmament back to substantive work: food for thought", introduced by the Government of Canada as an official document of the Conference on 26 March 2009.

14. In 2008-2009, under the "six Presidents initiative", UNIDIR continued to provide the Conference on Disarmament with information to assist Member States in their deliberations. Requests for briefings are expected to multiply as the Conference on Disarmament moves forward with its programme of work.

2. Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation

15. Phase two of the UNIDIR–Monterey Institute of International Studies project on regional organizations and the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) focuses on the dissemination of the phase one findings and production of additional research papers. A panel discussion was organized in New York on 22 October 2008. Outreach activities included presentations in the United States, Europe and Asia; additional activities are planned in other regions.

16. As a component of its project "The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: new opportunities?" UNIDIR published *Unfinished Business: the Negotiation of the CTBT and the End of Nuclear Testing* in early 2009. The book was launched on 13 May 2009 in New York, at a well-attended panel discussion in the margins of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Audio files are available on the UNIDIR website. A second event was held on 9 June 2009 in Vienna with the participation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, and a third event will be held in Washington, D. C., later in the year.

17. In September 2008, UNIDIR launched a multi-year study of the political and legal aspects of multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. Outputs will include a series of six reports; seminars, workshops and joint publications with other experts and institutes; and outreach activities.

18. The project's first study paper, *Multilateralization of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Assessing the Existing Proposals*, was published in March 2009. On 12 March 2009, UNIDIR hosted a half-day seminar entitled "Multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle" in Geneva, attended by representatives from more that 40 countries. A second seminar, "A multilateral approach to the nuclear fuel cycle: can it strengthen the NPT?" was held on 5 May 2009 in New York. The second study paper is in production. Year two will focus specifically how a multilateral approach to the nuclear fuel cycle is linked to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

19. UNIDIR held a seminar, organized jointly with the Government of France, entitled "Nuclear renaissance: non-proliferation and shared responsibilities" in New York on 6 May 2009 as a side event to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference.

20. Under the auspices of the Geneva Forum,[1] UNIDIR helped to organize and participated in a number of seminars on nuclear issues, ranging from nuclear waste disposal to the prospects for a nuclear-free world.

3. Biological and chemical weapons

21. During the 2008 meeting of States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, UNIDIR held a side event entitled "Universalization of confidence-building measures in the Biological Weapons Convention," on 4 December. In addition, under the auspices of the Geneva Forum, UNIDIR in 2009-

[1] UNIDIR is a founding partner of the Geneva Forum, along with the Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva and the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.

2010 is helping to plan and execute a series of activities to assist States in preparing for discussions of confidence-building measures in the run up to the seventh Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, in 2011.

4. Space technologies and space law

22. The report of the 2008 conference on "Security in space: the next generation" was circulated as a document of the Conference on Disarmament on 23 June 2008 (CD/1844) by Canada and the proceedings of the conference were published in December 2008.

23. UNIDIR intends to expand its work during 2009-2010 on the safety and sustainability of outer space. In February 2009, the UNIDIR Director gave a presentation at the first informal Conference on Disarmament working group on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. In May 2009, she authored a paper on the work of the Conference on Disarmament on outer space issues for the joint Australia-Japan International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, entitled "Saving space: hope for preventing an arms race in outer space". On 10 June 2009, Theresa Hitchens became the first UNIDIR Director to address formally the Vienna-based Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and initiated discussions regarding more regular cooperation and possible joint efforts with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

24. On 15 and 16 June 2009, in partnership with the Governments of Canada, China and the Russian Federation, the Secure World Foundation and the Simons Foundation, UNIDIR hosted its annual conference on outer space security, titled "Space security 2009: moving towards a safer space environment".

25. UNIDIR will be building several new projects on outer space security, and has initiated discussions with the International Telecommunication Union about prospects for future joint activities.

5. Implementing treaties and commitments

26. UNIDIR has been participating in the European Union-United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs joint action on implementing the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its annexed protocols through a series of regional seminars aimed at increasing the number of signatories to the Convention. UNIDIR was tasked to deliver presentations on cluster munitions, the benefits of joining the Convention and its Protocols, and to contribute to the executive summary at the end of each seminar. UNIDIR is also assisting the Office for Disarmament Affairs with the preparation of the final publication.

27. UNIDIR has started a series of activities to inform the international community on the threat posed by illicit brokering activities, including those relating to weapons of mass destruction. UNIDIR will produce an edition of *Disarmament Forum* (No. 3, 2009) dedicated to this issue, as well as host seminars in Geneva and New York in 2010.

28. In cooperation with the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, UNIDIR is continuing a research programme begun in 2001 to study the role of regional bodies in implementing global treaties. The current research focuses on how regional organizations can contribute to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

29. Other UNIDIR activities related to implementation of treaties and commitments include its activities in support of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects and promoting entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

6. Security and disarmament thinking

30. UNIDIR has now completed its multi-year research project entitled "Disarmament as humanitarian action: making multilateral negotiations work". The project produced four volumes of work, the last being *The Value of Diversity in Multilateral Disarmament Work*, released in December 2008.

31. As part of the project's work, a series of "Disarmament Insight" workshops was held in collaboration with the Geneva Forum under the rubric of "Thinking differently about human security". The last of these workshops, a two-day residential seminar in Glion, Switzerland, entitled "Learn, adapt, succeed: potential lessons from the Ottawa and Oslo processes for other disarmament and arms control challenges" was held on 19 and 20 November 2008.

32. The final report of the UNIDIR project "Creating a new dynamic for public-private partnerships for peaceful and sustainable development: human security and equitable access to resources", undertaken in conjunction with the Economic Commission for Europe and the University of Geneva and was published in late 2008.

33. Selected recordings from the seminar held in April 2008 entitled "Information and communication technologies and international security" have been posted on the UNIDIR website and further work is planned for 2009, as a contribution to the upcoming meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts.

B. Regional security and disarmament

34. In addition to UNIDIR activities focused on specific regions, work on a future arms trade treaty, the universalization of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and peacebuilding efforts have adopted a regional approach.

1. Arms trade treaty

35. UNIDIR was selected to implement the decision by the Council of the European Union (2009/42/CFSP), adopted on 19 January 2009, on support for European Union activities in order to promote among third countries the process leading towards an arms trade treaty, in the framework of the European Security Strategy. The project aims to facilitate the exchange of views among States, regional organizations and civil society.

36. The project consists of six regional seminars during the period from April 2009 to February 2010, plus a launch seminar (held in Geneva on 24 February 2009), a side event on the margins of First Committee of the General Assembly in October 2009, and a final seminar to present the overall results of the project. Once finalized, summary reports from the regional seminars and a final report will be produced, presented and made available online.

2. Universalization of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

37. Throughout 2008, UNIDIR was engaged in a project executed by the Office for Disarmament Affairs on promoting the universalization of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, through regional seminars in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East and Mediterranean, South-East Asia and the Pacific islands.

3. Peacekeeping and post-conflict security

38. The Security Needs Assessment Protocol project concluded its first phase in December 2008. The project designed an approach to learning about local security needs in order to assist in the creation of more viable solutions at the community level. Field-testing in Ghana and Nepal in 2007 and 2008 led to the creation of a prototype protocol at the end of 2008, consisting of a research guide, an operations manual and also a new model for cooperative ethics in security-related field research.

39. The validation phase of this project is being conducted from January 2009 to December 2010. As part of this effort, the project is working with the United Nations Children's Fund-Nepal in 2009 on issues of community security and strengthening local capacities to prevent or reduce the involvement of children in violent activities.

40. In January 2009, UNIDIR concluded the project, supported by the Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowships programme of the European Commission, on European Union cooperation with the United Nations in crisis management. The project findings were disseminated in 8 issue-specific research publications and 20 presentations.

41. In April 2009, UNIDIR began a follow-on project to explore European Union cooperation with the United Nations in the area of peacebuilding. The project will provide recommendations relating to the European Union's follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304), and to European Union input into the forthcoming reviews of the Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund. The project will result in a UNIDIR publication and an outreach event with the European Council working group on the United Nations in late 2009.

4. Latin America and the Caribbean

42. On 11 and 12 March 2009 in Santo Domingo, under the European Union-Office for Disarmament Affairs initiative to promote the universality of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its protocols, a regional workshop was organized for Latin America and the Caribbean; 35 participants from States not parties to the Convention and two High Contracting Parties to the Convention from the region, as well as regional organizations including the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community, attended this first seminar.

43. The second regional seminar on the arms trade treaty project took take place in Mexico City on 18 and 19 June 2009. It brought together representatives from 27 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean.

5. Asia and Pacific

44. A regional workshop to implement Council Joint Action 2007/528/CFSP of 23 July 2007 on the universality of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons was held in Kathmandu on 17 and 18 December 2008. Thirty-five representatives of States from South and South-East Asia and the Pacific islands participated.

45. As a component of the UNIDIR project "International assistance for implementing the United Nations programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons", in September 2008 two UNIDIR researchers conducted field research on the needs for small arms and light weapons assistance in the South Pacific subregion. The results of the research are presented in a report, which will be released in July 2009.

6. Middle East

46. Under the European Union-Office for Disarmament Affairs Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons project, 13 countries and 3 High Contracting Parties from the region were invited to a conference held in Rabat on 19 and 20 November 2008.

47. On 28 and 29 July 2009, UNIDIR held the third regional seminar of the project "Promoting discussion on an arms trade treaty" in Amman, with representatives of 14 Member States attending.

7. Africa

48. Issue number 4, 2008 of *Disarmament Forum*, entitled *The Complex Dynamics of Small Arms in West Africa*, examined small arms in West Africa, and some of the regional and civil society activities being undertaken to combat the problem.

49. The Security Needs Assessment Protocol project is in discussion with the International Organization for Migration concerning cooperation on forced migration issues in Africa.

50. In April 2008, two seminars were organized in Lomé, aimed at promoting the universality of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons; participants from governments, High Contracting Parties, and international, regional and subregional organizations of West and East Africa, the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes region and Southern Africa attended these seminars.

51. As part of the European Union-UNIDIR project "Promoting discussion on an arms trade treaty", the first regional seminar was held in Dakar on 28 and 29 April 2009. It was directed to the States of Central, Northern and West Africa, and included representatives of regional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States and the Economic Community of Central African States.

C. Human security and disarmament

52. The groundbreaking work of the "Disarmament as humanitarian action" project has been an important contribution to the current thinking on new approaches to human security. Likewise, UNIDIR work on small arms and light

weapons, cluster munitions and health security has made a significant contribution in this field.

1. Supporting the United Nations Programme of Action and other small arms controls

53. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office for Disarmament Affairs, UNIDIR and the Small Arms Survey continued their joint project analysing the reports made to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action to better ascertain where capacity-building was most needed. The 2008 analysis examines the national reports submitted by States since the adoption of the Programme of Action in 2001. The draft report was presented at the 2008 Biennial Meeting of States, and the final report, entitled *Implementing the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons: Analysis of the National Reports Submitted by States from 2002 to 2008*, was issued in December 2008.

54. UNIDIR has carried out a three-phased, multi-year project to assess financial and technical assistance for implementation of the Programme of Action, which is now complete. Phase three produced: a comprehensive checklist, available as an electronic notebook, to help States identify their small arms and light weapons assistance needs; a case study report on the needs in the South Pacific subregion; and a web-based mechanism for matching needs and resources, which is being integrated into the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, administered by the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

55. Between December 2008 and April 2009, UNIDIR undertook a study on State implementation of post-manufacture and import marking provisions under the International Tracing Instrument, the Firearms Protocol, and regional instruments. The survey's purpose was: to assess whether States are currently practising post-manufacture or import marking, to explore the practices and procedures of those States that do, and to better understand why some States do not.

56. Issue number 3, 2009 of *Disarmament Forum* focuses on illicit brokering, with several contributions focusing on the illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons.

57. UNIDIR remains an active member of the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA). Building upon its development of the country profiles section of the CASA website, UNIDIR is further contributing to the Programme of Action Implementation Support System through its development of a web-based mechanism matching needs and resources.

2. Arms trade treaty

58. In addition to its regional seminars to promote discussion of an arms trade treaty, UNIDIR is planning additional activities related to the open-ended Working Group on the arms trade treaty.

3. Geneva Forum meetings on small arms and conventional weapons

59. In the area of small arms, the Geneva Forum and the Geneva Process (an initiative of the Geneva Forum on small arms that involves Governments, international organizations and NGOs in regular informal consultations to promote

and monitor implementation of the Programme of Action) have held numerous meetings during 2008-2009, and more are planned for 2010-2011. Topics have included the outcomes of the third Biennial Meeting of States, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, an arms trade treaty and the Firearms Protocol.

4. Landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war

60. In early 2008, UNIDIR launched a project entitled "The road from Oslo: analysis of negotiations to address the humanitarian effects of cluster munitions". An analytical history of international efforts to address the humanitarian impacts of cluster munitions is to be published in late 2009. The study documents the Oslo process on cluster munitions that led to the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, in May 2008. The project has also followed related work, including within the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. A number of presentations to a variety of audiences on landmines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war have been undertaken, and project researchers have continued activities associated with the Disarmament Insight initiative (see para. 71 below).

61. Issue number 1, 2010 of *Disarmament Forum* will look at practical aspects of implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, focusing on such considerations as victim assistance, stockpile destruction and battle area clearance.

62. Under the European Union-Office for Disarmament Affairs Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons project, UNIDIR made presentations about the ongoing debate about constraining the use of cluster munitions under both the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Oslo process.

63. Under the auspices of the Geneva Forum, UNIDIR helped plan and participated in a series of 2008 briefings on the Oslo process, as well as meetings in 2009 on the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

V. Networking, dissemination and outreach

64. Working with researchers, diplomats, Government officials, NGOs and other institutions, UNIDIR acts as a bridge between the research community, Governments and civil society.

A. Networking

65. One of the Institute's unique functions is to cooperate actively with specialized agencies, organizations and institutes of the United Nations system and with other organizations active in the field of disarmament. UNIDIR has continued to increase the number of institutes with which it collaborates — in particular seeking to create relationships with organizations "outside the box" of traditional security actors.

1. Collaboration with other United Nations institutes

66. On 5 and 6 March 2009, UNIDIR participated in a meeting of the Directors of the seven United Nations research and training institutes aimed at building bridges among the institutes, increasing their visibility within the United Nations,

harmonizing procedures, and better coordinating their primary functions to support the United Nations system. With the approval of the Secretary-General, the institutes agreed to increase cooperation, as well as to clarify and improve processes and procedures to allow the institutes to better fulfil their mandates.

2. Conferences, seminars and discussion meetings

67. UNIDIR holds a range of different types of research meetings to examine issues of security, arms control and disarmament; foster cooperation with and among research institutes in the areas concerned; and help to educate the diplomatic community (in particular in Geneva) about current and future issues.

B. Dissemination

68. UNIDIR is disseminating increasing amounts of materials via its website, including audio recordings of UNIDIR meetings, full text publications, draft papers and presentations.

69. UNIDIR is currently evaluating dissemination of its research results and materials, with particular attention on geographic distribution. The results of this evaluation, due in 2010, will serve as a basis for a new outreach strategy.

C. Outreach

70. Promoting the work of the Institute and its research results, as well as actively seeking new partnerships, is the objective of the Institute's outreach activities.

71. Disarmament Insight, a collaborative effort of the Disarmament as Humanitarian Action project and the Geneva Forum, was launched in April 2007. This outreach mechanism includes web-based resources, including a research blog (www.disarmamentinsight.blogspot.com), through which new material is regularly posted.

72. As part of its outreach activities, UNIDIR has also developed its web presence via social networking sites, and is exploring other electronic media for future initiatives.

1. *Disarmament Forum*

73. The UNIDIR quarterly journal, *Disarmament Forum*, is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2009. *Disarmament Forum* is a bilingual (English and French) publication on disarmament and security issues — the sole journal of the United Nations dedicated to these topics. UNIDIR considers the journal both a substantive contribution to its programme of work as well as the Institute's flagship outreach tool.

74. Over the last decade, the journal has addressed a wide array of subjects, from fissile materials and nuclear terrorism, to specific regional issues, to the role of civil society in disarmament initiatives. The journal is available online. A new visual identity for the journal is under development and UNIDIR is actively seeking contributions to support the publication of *Disarmament Forum*.

2. Education for disarmament

75. In May 2009, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies and the Office for Disarmament Affairs, UNIDIR co-sponsored the side event "Disarmament and non-proliferation: yes, we can!" during the 2009 third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in New York. The seminar sought creative ways to promote implementation of the recommendations contained in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education and training (A/57/124).

76. UNIDIR staff routinely organize or present at meetings designed to educate Geneva-based diplomats. These include the Geneva Forum's annual day-long orientation workshop to introduce disarmament and security issues to newly arrived diplomats in Geneva, as well as meetings organized by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy.

77. UNIDIR representatives frequently present to visiting university groups, parliamentarians, officials, decision-makers from capitals, and the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship programme.

78. In late 2009, UNIDIR, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung will co-sponsor a day-and-a-half-long seminar, tentatively entitled "The role of different actors in disarmament", to bring together representatives of civil society, Governments (with a special emphasis on the Southern Hemisphere) and international/regional organizations to discuss how they can improve their interactions.

VI. Publications

79. The Institute's new visual identity, launched in 2008, has generated significant positive feedback. The UNIDIR Publication Unit is now working on a new visual identity for *Disarmament Forum* as well as an electronic occasional paper series.

80. The UNIDIR publication programme for 2009-2010 further includes topics such as fissile materials, cluster munitions, non-proliferation and the nuclear fuel cycle, space security issues and small arms reporting commitments.

81. Between July 2008 and June 2009, UNIDIR issued the following publications:

Books

Multilateralization of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Assessing the Existing Proposals, Yury Yudin, 2009 (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.09.0.6).

Unfinished Business: the Negotiation of the CTBT and the End of Nuclear Testing, Rebecca Johnson, 2009 (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.09.0.4).

The Value of Diversity in Multilateral Disarmament Work, John Borrie and Ashley Thornton, 2008 (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.08.0.5).

Implementing the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons: Analysis of the National Reports Submitted by States from 2002 to 2008,

Sarah Parker and Silvia Cattaneo, 2008 (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.08.0.4).

Security in Space: The Next Generation. Conference Report 31 March-1 April 2008 (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.08.0.3).

Implementing Resolution 1540: the Role of Regional Organizations, Lawrence Scheinman, editor, 2008 (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.08.0.1).

Disarmament Forum

No. 3, 2008: Uranium Weapons

No. 4, 2008: The Complex Dynamics of Small Arms in West Africa

Nos. 1 and 2, 2009: Tenth Anniversary Issue: Ideas for Peace and Security

VII. Prospective research activities: 2009-2011

82. The UNIDIR research programme is long-term in its approach, ranging between two and five years, although many of the projects have short time-spans and are designed for quick impact.

83. The UNIDIR programme for 2009-2011 will see a continuation of its current portfolio. UNIDIR is crafting a growth strategy founded upon a new programmatic structure that not only addresses current concerns but also allows the Institute to address cutting-edge, over-the-horizon challenges to peace and security.

84. Specific areas of research include, but are not limited to, the following, for which UNIDIR is seeking funds to either initiate or expand on the existing programme of work:

- Nuclear disarmament
- Promoting the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
- Multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle
- Fostering successful negotiations on a fissile materials cut-off treaty
- Implementing the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention
- Outer space security
- Information security and cyber-warfare
- Security Needs Assessment Protocol
- Women and security
- Implementing the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons
- Arms trade treaty
- Disarmament and non-proliferation education
- Improving civil-military relations in peacemaking, peacebuilding and humanitarian actions.

85. In 2009-2010, UNIDIR will be developing a resource mobilization strategy linked to the eventual programmatic restructuring and the Institute's planned programme of work. Without prejudice to the subvention from the United Nations regular budget, there is a need to establish a more sustainable financial base. There is also a need to build and sustain capacity — something that can only be accomplished with a stable funding base not reliant on project-specific funding. The funding strategy will be based on four pillars: seeking to increase the subvention from the United Nations regular budget and to implement previous recommendations by the General Assembly concerning support for the core staff; funding the programmatic themes (rather than relying solely on project-by-project funds); building core funds through donor Governments; and re-engaging with foundations and charitable organizations. UNIDIR is confident that with this effort the Institute will be able to grow in a sustainable manner and bolster its ability to fulfil its mandate.

Annex I

Income and expenditure for 2007 and 2008 and estimates for 2009 and 2010

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Item	*2007*	*2008*	*2009 (estimates)*	*2010 (estimates)*
A. Funds available at the beginning of the year	1 667.7	1 667.3[a]	1 259.5[b]	876.5[c]
B. Income:				
Voluntary contributions and public donations	2 104.5[d]	1 785.9[e]	2 574.7[f]	1 228.5[g]
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	262.0	243.1	307.8	273.7
Other inter-organization contributions	18.0[d]	18.0[e]	18.0[f]	20.0[g]
Interest income	72.1	44.8	40.0	20.0
Miscellaneous income	12.7	8.2	0.0	0.0
Total income	**2 469.3**	**2 100.0**	**2 940.5**	**1 542.2**
C. Prior period adjustments	0.0	-10.0[h]	0.0	0.0
D. Refund to donors	0.0	-65.0[i]	0.0	0.0
E. Prior-period obligations	0.0	22.5	0.0	0.0
F. Total funds available	4 137.0	3 714.8	4 200.0	2 418.7
G. Expenditure	2 469.7	2 455.3	3 323.5	2 019.2
H. Fund balance at the end of the year	1 667.3[a]	1 259.5[b]	876.5[c]	399.5[j]

[a] Includes $292,300 required as operating cash reserve for 2007.
[b] Includes $308,700 required as operating cash reserve for 2008.
[c] Includes $348,300 required as operating cash reserve for 2009.
[d] See annex III for details of UNIDIR 2007 income from voluntary sources.
[e] See annex III for details of UNIDIR 2008 income from voluntary sources.
[f] See annex III for details of UNIDIR 2009 estimated income from voluntary sources.
[g] See annex III for details of UNIDIR 2010 estimated income from voluntary sources. The estimates for 2010 contributions are conservative. Experience shows that they will be much higher but this cannot, of course, be guaranteed at this stage.
[h] Reversal of Mexican contribution of $10,000.
[i] Refund to Norway for the project entitled "Including women in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes through better research, training and education" due to modification of the project upon agreement of the donor.
[j] Includes $234,700 required as operating cash reserve for 2010.

Annex II

Resource requirements: 2007-2010

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Resource requirements	*2007 (1)*	*2008 (2)*	*2009[a] (estimates) (3)*	*2010[a] (estimates) (4)*	*Increase/ decrease (4-3)*
A. Direct administrative costs					
Salaries and related staff costs	461.8	594.1	767.4	755.5	-11.9
General temporary assistance	19.2	153.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Temporary assistance for meetings	13.5	18.4	43.2	4.9	-38.3
Consultants' fees and travel	89.4	53.8	55.9	38.2	-17.7
Ad hoc expert groups	122.1	114.4	560.3	58.8	-501.5
Personal service contracts	1 490.1	1 235.8	1 416.0	872.6	-543.4
Official travel of staff	123.0	123.6	136.0	59.7	-76.3
Other external printing	0.0	0.6	4.9	2.0	-2.9
Training	3.3	3.4	4.6	3.7	-0.9
Contractual services	2.4	2.4	65.0	80.1	15.1
Hospitality	12.3	14.9	23.7	8.9	-14.8
Premises: rental and maintenance	1.1	0.7	15.6	5.9	-9.7
Rental of office equipment	6.6	4.3	11.2	4.0	-7.2
Rental of conference service equipment	0.4	0.9	8.4	3.6	-4.8
PSC — UNDP country office costs	0.1	0.1	0.7	1.3	0.6
Bank charges	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.0
Communication	0.1	0.5	23.4	17.2	-6.2
Acquisition of office equipment	1.2	0.6	16.6	2.6	-14.0
Acquisition, software packages	2.8	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Replacement, EDP equipment	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Data storage and archival supplies	0.0	3.0	8.0	0.0	-8.0
Stationary and office supplies	0.1	0.5	2.4	1.3	-1.1
Paper for internal reproduction	0.0	10.9	12.0	12.0	0.0
Subscriptions and standing orders	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0
Library books and supplies	0.1	0.2	2.4	1.6	-0.8
Total A	**2 352.2**	**2 339.0**	**3 179.9**	**1 936.1**	**-1 243.8**
B. Programme support costs (5 per cent of total A, less United Nations subvention)	, 117.5	116.3	143.6	83.1	-60.5
Total expenditure (Total A + B)	**2 469.7**	**2 455.3**	**3 323.5**	**2 019.2**	**-1 304.3**

Resource requirements	*2007 (1)*	*2008 (2)*	*2009[a] (estimates) (3)*	*2010[a] (estimates) (4)*	*Increase/ decrease (4-3)*
C. Operating cash reserve (15 per cent of expenditure on contributions other than from the European Union, less United Nations subvention, and 5 per cent on contributions from the European Union)	292.3	308.7	348.3	234.7	-113.6
Grand total A + B + C	**2 762.0**	**2 764.0**	**3 671.8**	**2 253.9**	**-1 417.9**

[a] These figures may be increased upon the confirmation of new funding proposals.

A. Direct programme and administrative costs for 2010

Pending approval of new fund-raising applications, the provisions made for research programmes and administrative costs are minimalist. However, they will be increased as funding comes forward.

Salaries and related staff costs: $755,500. These estimated requirements are needed to cover the salaries and related staff costs of UNIDIR regular staff. In 2010, the regular staff will consist of the Director (D-2), the Deputy Director (D-1) and two general service staff. The total estimated requirements under this heading are based on the standard salary costs applicable to Geneva for 2010 (version 1) and reflect a decrease of $11,900 over the 2009 revised requirements, because the 2009 provisions included a provision for the new Director's installation costs.

Temporary assistance for meetings: $4,900. This provision will be needed to cover temporary assistance for UNIDIR meetings in 2010. It represents a decrease of $38,300 over the 2009 revised budget estimates due to the fact that the project on an arms trade treaty, consisting of six regional seminars through 2009, will convene only one conference in Vienna in 2010.

Consultants' fees and travel: $38,200. This provision will be needed to hire individual contractors for translation work ($5,000) and consultants for the Assistance to the Group of Governmental Experts on Information Security ($15,000), for the project on multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle ($5,000) and for the Security Needs Assessment Protocol — phase two ($13,200). This entails a decrease of $17,700 over the 2009 estimated requirements.

Ad hoc expert groups: $58,800. This provision will be needed to cover the travel expenses of experts participating in the 2010 Outer Space Conference ($16,600), the seminars on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty ($8,000), multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle ($6,000), three seminars funded by the French Government ($15,000) and expert group meetings for the project on Security Needs Assessment Protocol ($13,200). This reflects a decrease of $501,500 over the 2009 budget requirements, because the project on an arms trade treaty, consisting of regional seminars through 2009, will end at the beginning of 2010.

Personal service contracts: $872,600. This provision will be needed to extend the contracts of the in-house staff working on current projects. These estimated requirements reflect a decrease of $543,400 over the 2009 revised requirements, as several projects are ending in 2009. It should be noted that the provisions for phase

two of the Security Needs Assessment Protocol project ($197,600) are made for six months only and will be doubled when funding agreements are signed for the last six months of the project. Furthermore, as new projects are funded and established, this provision will increase.

Official travel of staff: $59,700. The estimated requirements for travel of staff in 2010 will be used for project related travel, namely, multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle ($8,500), Security Needs Assessment Protocol — phase two ($39,500), and for non-project-related travel, including fundraising travel ($14,600). As several projects are ending in 2009 or early 2010, the requirements for travel of staff show a decrease of $76,300 over the revised 2009 revised estimates. However, the provision under this heading will increase as new projects are funded.

Other external printing: $2,000. This provision reflects a decrease of $2,900 over the revised 2009 budget requirements. It will be needed to purchase photos for the publications' cover pages.

Other specialized training: $3,700. This provision reflecting a decrease of $900 over the revised 2009 budget requirements will be needed for continuous learning activities.

Other contractual services: $80,100. This provision, reflecting an increase of $15,100 over the 2009 budget requirements, will be needed to extend the existing contractual services for the website, other services related to the data-processing equipment ($4,000) as well as to contract an Austrian partner for the organization of the final seminar on an arms trade treaty, to be held in Vienna in 2010 ($76,400).

Hospitality: $8,900. The estimated requirements for hospitality in 2010 reflect a decrease of $14,800 over the 2009 revised estimates because almost all the regional seminars of the project on an arms trade treaty will be organized in 2009.

Premises: rental and maintenance: $5,900. This provision, reflecting a decrease of $9,700 over the 2009 revised estimates, will be needed to cover the rental of conference rooms for the FMCT Seminars and for the Security Needs Assessment Protocol field research missions.

Rental of office equipment: $4,000. This provision, reflecting a decrease of $7,200 over the 2009 revised estimates, will be used to cover the rental of the photocopier and fax equipment.

Rental of conference service equipment: $3,600. This provision will be needed to cover the servicing of UNIDIR conferences in 2010. It reflects a decrease of $4,800 over the 2009 revised budget estimates.

PSC — UNDP country office costs: $1,300. This provision, reflecting an increase of $600 over the 2009 revised requirements, will be needed to cover programme support costs of UNDP field offices for the Security Needs Assessment Protocol field missions.

Bank charges: $1,000. This provision will be needed to cover bank charges in 2010. It reflects no change over the 2009 revised budget estimates.

Communication: $17,200. This provision will be needed to reimburse the United Nations Office at Geneva for the fixed and mobile phone usage costs, and to pay traffic-related costs. These estimated requirements represent a decrease of $6,200

over the 2009 revised estimates but may increase in case UNIDIR organizes field missions.

Acquisition of office equipment: $2,600. This provision reflects a decrease of $14,000 over the 2009 estimated requirements mainly because the purchase of all equipment for the project on an arms trade treaty is done in 2009. It may increase if new projects are funded.

Data storage and archival supplies. No resources are required for 2010. The decrease of $8,000 over the revised requirements for 2009 is due to the fact that the provision in 2009 was made to purchase USB flash drives to distribute project materials within the framework of the project on an arms trade treaty.

Stationary and office supplies: $1,300. This provision, reflecting a decrease of $1,100 over the 2009 estimated requirements will be needed to purchase office supplies in 2010.

Paper for internal reproduction: $12,000. The estimated requirements under this heading will be used to purchase the paper for the production of *Disarmament Forum*. They reflect no change over the 2009 revised requirements.

Subscription and standing orders: $1,200. This provision, reflecting no change over the 2009 resources requirements, will be used to extend the current subscriptions.

Library books and supplies: $1,600. This provision, reflecting a decrease of $800 over 2009 budget requirements, will be used to purchase specialized books.

B. Programme support costs

A provision of $83,100 representing 5 per cent of the total estimated expenditure less the amount of the United Nations regular budget subvention of $273,700 will be needed for programme support costs in 2010.

C. Operating cash reserve

In compliance with administrative instruction ST/AI/284, an amount of $234,700 will be kept as operating cash reserve. It represents 15 per cent of the total 2010 estimated expenditure funded from extrabudgetary resources — with the exception of the expenditure funded by the European Commission for which a 5 per cent rate is applied.

Annex III

Voluntary contributions for 2007 and 2008 and current status for 2009 and 2010

(United States dollars)

Voluntary contributions	*2007*	*2008*	*2009[a]*	*2010[a]*
A. Governmental contributions				
Australia	0	98 530	115 020	0
Austria	0	78 864	0	0
Canada	104 066	15 017	35 560	12 800
China	35 000	19 985	20 000	20 000
Finland	53 763	62 208	55 788	55 000
France	48 300	343 250	323 895	324 000
Holy See	0	0	10 000	10 000
India	4 982	0	0	0
Ireland	10 000	30 000	0	0
Israel	8 995	9 694	10 000	10 000
Japan	30 000	32 625	0	0
Luxembourg	6 485	7 396	9 843	10 000
Mexico	0	10 000	5 000	5 000
Netherlands	257 178	125 573	336 152	370 711
New Zealand	0	23 799	0	0
Norway	495 340	571 346	180 658	115 000
Republic of Korea[b]	0	50 000	30 000	30 000
Russian Federation	100 000	100 000	100 000	100 000
Sweden	289 000	40 000	44 269	0
Switzerland	59 400	67 072	104 942	60 000
Turkey	0	5 000	5 000	5 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	35 440	37 097	39 783	40 000
United States of America	150 000	0	0	0
Total governmental contributions	**1 687 949**	**1 727 456**	**1 425 910**	**1 167 511**
B. Public donations				
European Commission	226 749	0	1 056 746	36 951
Graduate Institute for International Studies	6 560	3 588	0	0
Marie Curie Foundation	121 118	0	67 987	0
Northeastern University	3 000	0	0	0
Secure World Foundation	0	6 877	15 000	15 000

Voluntary contributions	*2007*	*2008*	*2009[a]*	*2010[a]*
Simons Foundation	17 213	38 780	9 046	9 000
University of Geneva	41 894	9 174	0	0
Total public donations	**416 534**	**58 419**	**1 148 779**	**60 951**
Total voluntary contributions (A + B)	**2 104 483**	**1 785 875**	**2 574 689**	**1 228 462**
C. Inter-organization				
Office for Disarmament Affairs	18 000	18 000	18 000	20 000
Total inter-organization	**18 000**	**18 000**	**18 000**	**20 000**
Grand total (A + B + C)	**2 122 483**	**1 803 875**	**2 592 689**	**1 248 462**

[a] These figures will be increased upon the confirmation of new funding proposals.

[b] This table shows a $50,000 contribution from the Republic of Korea of 2008, out of which $20,000 was paid in December 2007 but earmarked for 2008, as requested by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office at Geneva, in its note to UNIDIR dated 10 December 2007 and $30,000 was paid on 15 December 2008 and earmarked for 2009.

Annex IV

Current status of 2009 estimated income from voluntary sources

(United States dollars)

Donor	Total amount of contributions	To be used for: Special project	To be used for: Other purposes (including administrative costs)
A. Governmental contributions			
Australia[a]	115 020	92 016	23 004
Canada[b]	35 560	28 448	7 112
China[c]	20 000	16 000	4 000
Finland[d]	55 788	11 158	44 630
France[e]	323 895	29 300	294 595
Holy See	10 000	8 000	2 000
Israel	10 000	8 000	2 000
Luxembourg	9 843	7 874	1 969
Mexico	5 000	4 000	1 000
Netherlands[f]	336 152	268 922	67 230
Norway[g]	180 658	48 625	132 033
Republic of Korea[h]	30 000	24 000	6 000
Russian Federation[i]	100 000	80 000	20 000
Turkey	5 000	4 000	1 000
Sweden[j]	44 289	35 415	8 854
Switzerland[k]	104 942	32 240	72 702
United Kingdom[l]	39 783	31 826	7 957
Total Governmental contributions	**1 425 910**	**729 824**	**696 086**
B. Public donations			
European Commission[m]	1 056 746	951 071	105 675
Marie Curie Foundation[n]	67 987	61 188	6 799
Secure World Foundation[o]	15 000	12 000	3 000
Simons Foundation[c]	9 046	7 237	1 809
Total public donations	**1 148 779**	**1 031 496**	**117 283**
Total voluntary contributions (A + B)	**2 574 689**	**1 761 320**	**813 369**

Donor	Total amount of contributions	To be used for: Special project	To be used for: Other purposes (including administrative costs)
C. Inter-organization			
Office for Disarmament Affairs[o]	18 000	14 400	3 600
Total inter-organization	**18 000**	**14 400**	**3 600**
Grand total (A + B + C)	**2 592 689**	**1 775 720**	**816 969**

[a] For the project "Multilateral assistance and aid effectiveness for disarmament and security: building bridges".

[b] $10,000 for Getting the Conference on Disarmament back to work; $12,098 for Comparative Analysis of Import Marking; and $13,465 for the Conference on space security 2009: moving towards a safer space environment.

[c] For the Conference on space security 2009: moving towards a safer space environment.

[d] For a project on an arms trade treaty.

[e] For the Deputy Director's post: $10,000 for the French translation of *Disarmament Forum*; and $26,225 for the costs of seminars to be held during 2009.

[f] For the project "security needs assessment protocol — phase two".

[g] $118,362 for core funding and $62,296 for regional organizations and the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

[h] For work on illicit brokering in small arms.

[i] For the seminar "Multilateral Approaches to the Nuclear Fuel Cycle"; the Conference on space security 2009: moving towards a safer space environment; and for work on information security.

[j] For European Union-United Nations cooperation in peacebuilding.

[k] $61,620 for core funding; $2,000 for implementing the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons: *analysis of the reports submitted by States 2006-2009*; and $41,322 for a project report on the fissile material cut-off treaty.

[l] For the seminar "Multilateral Approaches to the Nuclear Fuel Cycle".

[m] For support for European Union activities in order to promote among third countries the process leading towards an arms trade treaty.

[n] For European Union and United Nations planning for crisis management and peacebuilding: promoting best practices and inter-institutional learning.

[o] $8,000 for consultancy for the Group of Environmental Experts on Information Technology and $10,000 for the report *Implementing the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons: analysis of the reports submitted by States 2006-2009*.

Annex V

Estimated core staff requirements and subvention from the United Nations regular budget for 2009 and 2010

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Core staff	*2009*	*2010*
Director	268.3	276.0
Deputy Director	249.7	256.3
Two General Service staff	219.8	223.2
Installation costs (new director)	29.6	0.0
Projects and Publications Manager	128.2	129.8
Project Development and Fund-raising Assistant	96.3	90.5
Editor, Publications	88.9	90.5
Computer System Manager	60.0	61.1
French translator for *Disarmament Forum*	88.9	90.5
Editor, *Disarmament Forum*	44.5	45.8
Total core staff costs	**1 274.2**	**1 263.7**
Subvention from the regular budget[a]	307.8	273.7
Covered by voluntary contributions and public donations	966.4	990.0
Percentage covered by the regular budget subvention	**24.16 per cent**	**21.66 per cent**

[a] The United Nations regular budget subvention requested for 2008-2009 was in the amount of $485,500. It has been cost adjusted in 2009. The proposed amount of the United Nations regular budget subvention for 2010-2011 is $558,200.

United Nations A/64/262

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 July 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Item 35 of the provisional agenda*
Questions relating to information

Questions relating to information

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 63/100 B highlights recent communications campaigns of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat on key issues, such as the Millennium Development Goals, climate change, human rights and issues of peace and security. The growing role of the network of United Nations information centres — the Department field offices in 63 locations around the world — as a catalyst for redissemination of information at the local and regional levels is discussed. In outlining the Department's services to the media and civil society, the report pays particular attention to the expanded use of new information and communications technologies. It also includes an update on the outreach activities of the Department, including a section on its work with students.

* A/64/150.

09-44769 (E) 310809

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 84 of Part VII of its resolution 63/100 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-first session and to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of all recommendations and requests contained in that resolution. Accordingly, the Department of Public Information introduced three reports for consideration by the Committee on Information at its thirty-first session, held from 4-15 May 2009 (A/AC.198/2009/2, 3 and 4). The deliberations of the Committee with regard to those reports are reflected in its report to the General Assembly.[1]

2. The present report, prepared in response to the above-mentioned resolution, updates the information provided to the Committee on Information and describes activities undertaken by the Department of Public Information in the first half of 2009 — from January to July — through its three subprogrammes; namely, the strategic communications services, the news services, and the outreach and knowledge-sharing services.

II. Strategic communications services

A. Thematic issues

1. Climate change

3. Working with the United Nations Communications Group Task Force on Climate Change and the Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team, the Department of Public Information and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have developed the United Nations "Seal the Deal" campaign, which aims to promote support for a successful outcome of the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen in December. As convenor of the Task Force, which consists of 20 United Nations system entities, the Department plays a leading role in developing and implementing a system-wide strategy for communications on climate change. In addition to the campaign for the Copenhagen conference, the Task Force will focus on joint communications for the High-level Event on Climate Change to be convened by the Secretary-General on 22 September 2009.

- The United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels is working in partnership with UNEP on a "Seal the Deal" website with information leading up to the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December.
- On 5 June, in connection with the observance of World Environment Day, as the main international event took place in Mexico, the United Nations Information Centre Mexico City supported UNEP in organizing the day's main event and in designing and updating a web page, especially prepared for the occasion.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 21* (A/64/21).

2. Publicizing the work of the General Assembly

Impact of the economic and financial crisis on development

4. Working closely with the Office of the President of the General Assembly, the Department of Public Information provided communications support for the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (24-26 June 2009, New York). A press kit, website and other materials were produced and media outreach was undertaken to raise awareness of the recommendations of the Commission on Experts of the President of the General Assembly on Reforms of International Monetary and Financial System (A/63/838) and the political process leading up to the Conference. Two regional press conferences featuring members of the Commission of Experts were organized by the United Nations information centres in Cairo and New Delhi, generating coverage by national media.

- More than 650 media clips were collected from the three days of the Conference, and interviews with members of the Commission of Experts were set up with media outlets including the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), National Public Radio of the United States of America, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Xinhua China News, and Japanese television stations.

Millennium Development Goals report 2009

5. The Department of Public Information arranged for a global launch of the 2009 report of the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals at the opening of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva on 6 July. Regional events to launch the report were also organized by United Nations information centres and United Nations country teams in Brussels, Johannesburg, Moscow, New Delhi and Stockholm (coordinating five Nordic countries), with additional events to be held in Beijing and Seoul when senior officials visit there in late July and August. Press materials were also distributed by the larger network of United Nations information centres, and interviews were arranged. While the global launch generated articles by the main international wire services, regional outreach generated extensive coverage by national media.

- Media coverage for the launch of the report included: in the Nordic countries, over 20 print and broadcast reports, as well as four op-ed articles; in India, by 15 print media and 7 television stations; in the Benelux countries, over 20 news reports including 2 television stories; in the Middle East region, over 7 articles and wire service reports.

3. Influenza A(H1N1) virus

Special Task Force of the United Nations Communications Group

6. A special Task Force of the United Nations Communications Group, coordinated by the Department of Public Information, helped to maintain message coherence in communications within the United Nations system during the influenza A(H1N1) outbreak, which came to public attention in late April and was declared in June to have reached pandemic proportions. These actions helped to keep the United Nations system informed of the latest authorized information from the Secretary-General and the World Health Organization (WHO), and to maintain a consistent

and clear communications profile during the outbreak period. The Task Force also used this process as an opportunity to update and upgrade its membership and mechanisms. Beginning on 24 April, 19 bulletins containing advance or breaking news briefing notes or statements were sent out to the communication officials of the Task Force's 18 participating United Nations system entities. The Department hosted and helped to organize a review exercise by the Task Force in July for communicators and key officials from member organizations to evaluate inter-agency communications mechanisms and to shape future efforts.

- The United Nations Information Centre Mexico City undertook immediate measures to inform the public and United Nations Communications Group partners of the evolving situation. Through the local United Nations Communications Group, which it chairs, communications guidelines and information updates were shared region-wide in a timely manner. The Group also served as a discussion platform during the crisis. The United Nations Information Centre developed a website with information in Spanish on the outbreak, and also set up a communications centre on its premises for use by members of the United Nations country team.

4. International Women's Day 2009

7. Under the theme "Women and men united to end violence against women and girls", the Department worked to promote International Women's Day 2009, tying the observance in with the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign. Events at Headquarters, including a commemorative session attended by more than 600 people, held on 5 March, were publicized. Information materials for the Day and the campaign, including a campaign poster and Framework for Action booklet, were developed in six languages.

- As a result of the Department's media outreach, including a press conference and 10 interviews arranged for senior officials, 140 news stories on the Day appeared in international and regional media. Highlights include pieces by major news wires (Associated Press, Agence France-Presse and Xinhua News Agency of China), with the Associated Press article picked up by numerous publications, including the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Washington Post*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Los Angeles Times* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

8. The network of United Nations information centres carried out numerous activities in observance of the Day, often in partnership with local government authorities. These activities included:

- **United Nations Information Centre Bucharest:** Art exhibit at the United Nations House focusing on the condition of women in Africa
- **United Nations Information Centre Cairo:** Special supplement in the daily newspaper *Al-Masry Al-Youm*, published in collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for Women
- **United Nations Information Centre Harare:** Large public event that included United Nations representatives, government officials, diplomats and over 5,000 women, representing different political parties and organizations

5. Department of Public Information and United Nations peacekeeping operations

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

9. The Department of Public Information cooperated closely with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support on activities designed to mark the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (29 May), this year dedicated to women in United Nations peacekeeping, with the slogan, "The Power to Empower." A photo exhibition on women in peacekeeping was displayed at United Nations Headquarters, where it could be seen by tens of thousands of visitors, and was made available to all other United Nations offices. In addition to the joint press release issued by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to mark the Day, the Department issued more than 20 separate press releases targeting police and troop-contributing countries which lost uniformed peacekeepers in 2008.

10. The network of United Nations information centres observed the Day with a variety of activities, including:

- **United Nations Information Centre Ouagadougou:** Television debate on the contribution of United Nations peacekeeping operations in promoting peace in Africa
- **United Nations Information Centre New Delhi:** Launch of the book entitled *For the Honour of India: A History of Indian Peacekeeping Experiences*, by Lt. Gen. Satish Nambiar, organized by the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping of the United Services Institution of India in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and Army Headquarters
- **Peru:** Special ceremony on the occasion of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, organized by the Ministry of Defence (Training Centre for Peacekeeping Operations) and United Nations Information Centre Lima

Using new media to promote peacekeeping and disarmament

11. The Department has been working closely with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on how to employ new media methodologies to promote United Nations peacekeeping and to further engage young audiences. In this regard, new media experts working in Africa participated in the sixth annual workshop of the Department of Public Information-Department of Peacekeeping Operations on public information in peacekeeping, held in June 2009 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, and discussed new and rapid ways to communicate with host populations.

12. On 13 June, 100 days before the International Day of Peace, the Department launched a multiplatform campaign dedicated to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation called "WMD-WeMustDisarm". Each day the Department issues a "reason to disarm" message over Twitter, Facebook and MySpace. The Secretary-General issued the first 10 messages and will be further engaged in the campaign as it evolves.

13. These new media endeavours complement, but do not replace, other traditional forms of communication, and the Department of Public Information is working closely with both the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and relevant peace operations on capturing and developing best practices, particularly the use of troops

as communicators and the use of non-traditional communicators, communication centres and town hall outreach campaigns in multilayered communications plans.

6. Question of Palestine

14. The Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Government of Brazil, organized the annual International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East, in Rio de Janeiro on 27 and 28 July 2009. Entitled "Promoting Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue — A View from South America", this was the seventeenth in a series and the first to be held in the region. Over 150 participants from Brazil and other countries in Latin America, the Middle East, and other parts of the world attended, including current and former policymakers, government officials, mayors, representatives of civil society and academia, and journalists. The seminar was extensively covered by major Brazilian media outlets, including *Agencia Brasil*, *O Globo*, *Folha de São Paulo*, *O Estado de São Paulo*, *O Dia*, *Jornal do Brasil*, as well as by media in other parts of world, such as *Agence France-Presse*, *France 24*, *Emirates Tribune*, *Yedioth Aheronot*, *Maariv*, *Haaretz The Jerusalem Report*, *Al-Ayyam*, *Al-Quds*, *WAFA* and *Maan News Agencies*, *Vrema Novesti*, *Milliyet*, *Die Press*, *The Media News Line Agency*, *Addoustour* and *Petra*.

15. In collaboration with the Institute for Global Leadership, a United States-based non-governmental organization, the Department of Public Information arranged a press conference at United Nations Headquarters in March 2009, featuring a former Palestinian fighter and a former Israeli soldier, members of the Jerusalem-based Combatants for Peace, as part of a speaking tour throughout the United States. The two men, who lost close relatives during the conflict, are part of a movement of more than 600 former Israeli soldiers and former Palestinian fighters who opted for non-violent means to end violence in the area.

16. Preparations are ongoing for the 2009 training programme for young Palestinian journalists, which will take place in New York, Washington, D.C., and Geneva, from 9 November to 11 December. Nine candidates (five women and four men) have been selected to participate in this year's programme, the objective of which is to strengthen the skills and capacity of young Palestinian journalists. It will focus on broadcast journalism, including training with Internet-based media.

7. Human rights

Durban Review Conference

17. The Department of Public Information developed information materials for the Durban Review Conference, held in April 2009 in Geneva, including a poster, a press kit folder and a conference website in the six official United Nations languages. The Department also assigned a senior official to serve as the Conference spokesperson. United Nations information centres placed an op-ed article on the Conference by the High-Commissioner for Human Rights in 25 publications in 19 countries, and translated it into eight local languages from the original English.

Rwanda genocide outreach programme

18. The fifteenth commemoration of the Rwanda genocide was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 7 April 2009. The event, which included a solemn candle-lighting ceremony, was attended by the President of the General

Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations and genocide survivors, among others. The event received good press coverage, including by *The Wall Street Journal*, CNN and all major wire services. Also, as part of the commemoration, the Department oversaw the production and installation of the "Visions of Rwanda" exhibit at United Nations Headquarters in April and May 2009.

Indigenous issues

19. The Department of Public Information produced and disseminated worldwide through the information centres a comprehensive press kit for the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in May 2009. The Department arranged press briefings and interviews with Forum members, including for many Spanish-language media outlets, such as EFE, Notimex, DPA and AP (in Spanish). The Department also mobilized information centres to translate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in nearly 20 additional languages (including many indigenous languages).

8. New Partnership for Africa's Development

20. The Department's quarterly magazines, *Africa Renewal* and *Afrique renouveau*, continued to play an important role in raising awareness of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and generating support for its goals and accomplishments. The Department paid particular attention to producing information aimed at raising international awareness of Africa's special needs in relation to the global financial and economic crisis. In-depth articles were published in the two magazines and posted on the Africa Renewal website.

21. As a result of the Department's work to raise public awareness of NEPAD, 61 short feature articles (15 each in English, French and Kiswahili, 10 in Spanish, 3 in Portuguese and 3 in Greek) were published 396 times in major English, French and Kiswahili-language media. Media in Africa which regularly published these stories included *Business Day* (South Africa), *Daily Graphic* and *Public Agenda* (Ghana), *The Nation* (Kenya), *Public Eye* (Lesotho), *Morocco Daily*, *Punch* and *ThisDay* (Nigeria), *Le Messager* (Cameroon), *L'Essor* (Mali), *Walfadjri* (Senegal), *Mail* and *Guardian* online (South Africa). Articles were also featured in *The Wall Street Journal* online and *USA Today* (USA), and two major website portals, Afrik.com and allAfrica.com.

22. The Department played an active role in a media dialogue held at Riviera on Vaal, South Africa, in February, organized by the Advocacy and Communications Cluster of the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism for NEPAD, of which the Department of Public Information is a core member. Among those taking part were *All Global Media* which runs allAfrica.com, *El Yom* (Egypt), *Ghanaian Chronicle*, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, *Alakhbar* (Lebanon), *L'Express* (Mauritius), CNN (Africa correspondent) and the London-based *New Africa* and *New Africa Business* magazines.

B. United Nations Communications Group

23. The eighth annual meeting of the United Nations Communications Group at the level of principals was held on 25 and 26 June 2009 in Bangkok at the

headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Attended by 29 United Nations Communications Group member organizations, the meeting agreed to:

(a) Broaden to the widest possible extent the "Seal the Deal" as the umbrella outreach campaign of the United Nations system in support of a global treaty on climate change;

(b) Encourage United Nations country teams to continue strengthening their United Nations Communications Group and the Development Operations Coordination Office to develop graphic guidelines and templates for United Nations country web sites and other online or printed joint communications;

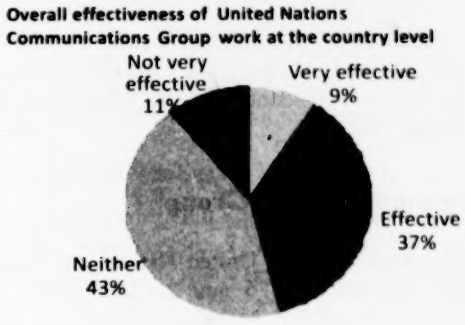
(c) Continue liaising with the network of United Nations information centres through the Department of Public Information for advance planning and joint communications on United Nations priority themes;

(d) Call upon the senior leadership of the United Nations system organizations to be open and supportive of the efforts of its staff to engage in new media, including social networks, such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs, to further the aims of the Organization;

(e) Establish a Task Force, coordinated by the Department of Public Information, to develop a communications strategy on the global financial and economic crisis, as requested by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

(f) Endorse a set of revised draft guidelines on the appointment and activities of United Nations Goodwill Ambassadors and Messengers of Peace.

24. At the local level, building partnerships with United Nations system organizations through the United Nations Communications Group remains a priority for the Department. Over 100 country-level Communications Groups have been established, often with United Nations information centres in the lead. In June this year, the Department conducted a global survey of all country teams on the work of the United Nations Communications Group at the local level. A plurality of respondents said the United Nations Communications Group in their country was effective. However, many respondents gave a mixed review, indicating that there were several challenges that needed to be addressed to make the United Nations Communications Groups more effective (see chart below). The Department of Public Information will work with United Nations country teams to improve the overall effectiveness of the Groups.


Overall effectiveness of United Nations Communications Group work at the country level
Not very effective 11%
Very effective 9%
Effective 37%
Neither 43%

C. United Nations information centres

Strengthening communications and coherence at the country level

25. The network of 63 United Nations information centres continues to be central to the Department's efforts to bring the United Nations story to people around the world. Over the course of the past year, the Department continued its efforts to strengthen the communications capacity of these centres and, through United Nations Communications Groups at the national and regional levels, to promote system-wide coherence in their work with the rest of the United Nations system.

26. The communications efforts within country teams that information centres have led or helped to coordinate include joint websites, newsletters and other information material, launches of major flagship reports issued by United Nations agencies, the joint observance of international days, and major communications campaigns.

- The United Nations Information Service in Vienna, with as many as 10 United Nations entities located in that city, has developed a workplan that includes strengthening the visitors' service at the Vienna International Centre, expanding a roster of speakers and organizing a teachers' conference about the United Nations
- United Nations information centre Dar es Salaam, as chair of the local United Nations Communications Group, has produced several issues of a newsletter that reflects the consolidated operation of the United Nations system in the country. This is especially noteworthy, as the United Republic of Tanzania is a "One UN" pilot country.

27. In April, six directors and information officers from information centres participated in Abuja in a strategic communications workshop for communications officers in Africa, organized by the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office. The workshop focused on aligning and integrating communications strategies with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and on using communications tools to promote coherence, effectiveness and relevance in communications. It also explored ways to strengthen United Nations Communications Groups at the country level by sharing best practices and lessons learned.

Enhancing the use of new media

28. The United Nations information centres are using videoconferencing and webcasting technologies to connect with remote and diverse partners and constituencies. The emerging trends in new media also provide the Department and its field offices with new ways to reach new and younger audiences.

- In January, in observance of the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, the United Nations information centres in Antananarivo, Bujumbura, Dakar, Lomé and Yaoundé participated in a videoconference on the Holocaust for students, together with the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris and United Nations Headquarters in New York
- Over 100 online participants from different parts of Mexico and from across Latin America took part via webcast in a "chat" forum (to ask questions in real

time) as part of a workshop in March on non-governmental organization association with the Department of Public Information, organized by the United Nations information centre Mexico City.

III. News services

A. Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General

29. The Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General conducts the daily noon briefing and keeps the press, delegations and the public informed, not only of the work of the Secretary-General, but also of developments throughout the United Nations system. During the past year (July 2008 through June 2009), the Spokesperson held 250 daily press briefings. The Office also organized 53 press conferences given by the Secretary-General at Headquarters and abroad, 111 press briefings by Member States, 183 press conferences by senior officials and 5 background briefings. In addition, the Office coordinated 45 press encounters and 107 press interviews with the Secretary-General at Headquarters and during his official visits to Member States. The Office also coordinated the logistics related to the participation of groups of journalists who accompanied the Secretary-General on six of his trips overseas.

B. United Nations website

30. As part of its continuing efforts to improve the structure, usability and visual attractiveness of the United Nations website, the Department carried out a major revamping of the top layers of the site — from the splash page to over 200 underlying pages in all six official languages. The new design incorporates a common branding element that fits in well with any content style and features improved navigation, in part through enhanced cross-linkages and colour coding of groups of pages. Users are now able to access content with fewer clicks. In keeping with General Assembly resolutions, the new pages are compliant with the accessibility requirements set out in the new web accessibility guidelines for United Nations websites.

31. In parallel with the revamp, work continued on a new companion site for mobile devices that is currently being tested for compatibility in all languages. This is part of a wider effort to disseminate material through new media and interactive forms of communication, including popular social networking sites. The Department is exploring new ways to deliver more content on demand in the form of podcasts and video podcasts (vodcasts) and to make it easier for consumers to share United Nations material with others.

32. Overall, during the first half of 2009, the United Nations website continued to register a steady growth in traffic. During that time the number of visits exceeded 44,460,000 — a 34 per cent increase over the corresponding period last year. Likewise, there was a 21 per cent rise in page views to 317,939,596 over the same time frame.

33. The Web Services Section of the Department continued to play a leading role in updating the site's content, with 5,678 pages uploaded in the first six months of 2009. The table below shows the new and updated pages in 2008 and 2009.

New pages created and updated in first six months of 2009 and 2008

	Arabic	*Chinese**	*English*	*French*	*Russian*	*Spanish*	*Total*
New 2009	842	1 743	477	537	1 150	929	**5 678**
Updated 2009	1 088	2 787	1 433	2 437	2 617	7 071	**17 433**
New 2008	877	1 182	851	553	1 250	826	**5 539**
Updated 2008	2 362	2 418	2 553	1 208	3 162	6 781	**18 484**

* New pages: 1,169 (web pages) + 574 (mobile device pages).

Multilingualism and accessibility by persons with disabilities

34. Efforts towards parity among the official languages remain a high priority for the Department, which continues to encourage other content-providing offices to ensure that their contents are made available in all official languages. However, given the fact that more content is produced in English, and that the resources available for translation are limited, it is impractical to expect a closing of the gap with the other official languages with the current level of resources.

35. The Web accessibility guidelines finalized last year have gone a long way towards assisting content-providing offices in developing web pages accessible by persons with disabilities. At the same time, efforts to ensure accessibility have increased the time required to develop and launch new sites.

United Nations website and governance

36. The Department of Public Information, in consultation with the newly established Office of Information and Communications Technology, has proposed the establishment of a two-tier governance mechanism for the website, which has begun functioning following approval by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. The highest tier is the Internet Steering Committee, established at the level of Under-Secretary-General. The Committee is assisted and supported in its functions by the Internet Governance Group, which oversees the setting of policies and standards and their implementation and replaces the Working Group on Internet Matters of the Publications Board.

37. The Internet Steering Committee provides oversight of the development and implementation of an Internet strategy for the United Nations Secretariat, reviews and decides upon recommendations made by the Internet Governance Group, including on the implementation of policies and standards on United Nations Secretariat websites, and on technical and content standards for issuance as administrative instructions and/or Secretary-General's Bulletins. The Internet Steering Committee also reviews cases of non-compliance with standards and policies, and decides on the course of action to bring about compliance. As part of its terms of reference, the Internet Steering Committee reports to the Secretary-General on Internet issues of strategic importance for the Organization.

United Nations News Centre

38. The *UN News Centre*, the principal online gateway for breaking news about the work of the United Nations at its Headquarters in New York and throughout the entire United Nations system, remained one of the most popular destinations on the United Nations site, showing sustained interest by users for all its language versions. Its database-driven platform allowed the stories published on the portal to be automatically retrieved on a growing number of pages on the United Nations website, including the newly redesigned home page, thus ensuring continuous updates of the latest developments. At the same time, the *UN News Centre* stories remained a reliable source of news about the United Nations for an array of external websites, from popular news aggregators, such as Google News and allAfrica.com, to outlets of media companies, educational institutions and non-governmental organizations.

39. Beyond breaking news, the portal's coverage in 2009 focused on an array of special events and observances, including the one-year anniversary of Cyclone Nargis. In addition, the portal continued to develop its *News Focus* segment designed to provide easy access to key sources materials on issues in the news. For example, special pages on the developments related to the H1N1 influenza, as well as to Sri Lanka were created.

Webcasting

40. The externally hosted multimedia portal of the Department of Public Information continued to serve as a key destination for accessing live and on-demand video on the United Nations website. At the same time, to fully utilize the synergies between the Department's television broadcast and online streaming operations, the Department's webcast unit took on the lead role in managing and upgrading the United Nations Channel on YouTube. Since January 2009, over 400 new videos covering a wide range of United Nations developments and issues were uploaded onto that web page that showed a steady growth in viewership.

C. Radio, television and photo services

United Nations Radio

41. The Department continued to expand its network of broadcasting partners, now spanning 126 countries, while at the same time making every effort to harness the power of the Internet to bring audio directly to listeners around the world. United Nations Radio also made its programming more appealing to broadcasters by providing varied formats and improved timeliness. News stories are now updated on United Nations Radio websites throughout the day. In one example of the success of this approach, continuous news updates by the Spanish Unit of United Nations Radio led to a sharp increase in downloads, from 3,168 in July 2008 to 58,511 in June 2009.

- Since January 2009, the following broadcasters were added to the list of media outlets receiving United Nations Radio material: Radio National Guinée, West Africa Democracy Radio, Radio Shanghai, China Telecom, Arirang Radio, Kyodo News, Lithuania Public Radio, the European Commission, Radio Nacional de Colombia, Voice of Israel, and Iowa Public Radio

42. The efforts of United Nations Radio to explore new distribution platforms are also bearing fruit. An analysis of usage patterns in April and May 2009 shows that United Nations Radio programmes are rapidly gaining new listeners on iTunes, a popular podcast site with audiences in different parts of the world. The increase was particularly noticeable for Chinese and English programmes, with iTunes accounting for over a quarter of the 70,000 downloads registered by United Nations Radio during the months of April and May.

43. The Department continued to improve access to archival material through a special segment on the United Nations Radio website, *UN Radio Classics* (www.unmultimedia.org/radio/library/classics/). Featuring historic United Nations audio materials — from old radio programmes to historic speeches, the *UN Radio Classics* page grows richer on a regular basis as a result of a concerted effort to digitize and preserve legacy sound from the audio library of the Department of Public Information. These audio files are also available via iTunes podcast.

- The United Nations Radio special series "The Food Crisis: Danger and Opportunity" was named a finalist in the Best Special Report category of the New York Festivals Radio Programming and Promotion Awards.

United Nations Television

44. Live coverage by United Nations Television of Security Council and General Assembly meetings, the activities of the Secretary-General, press conferences, stakeouts and a variety of special events at United Nations Headquarters continues to be widely used by broadcasters and international news syndicators. In addition to live news coverage, the two flagship television programmes of the Department — the magazine *21st Century* and the *UN in Action* feature series — expanded their reach. They featured priority themes and issues on the United Nations agenda, such as development, peace and security, eradication of poverty, the HIV/AIDS epidemic and human rights, and peacekeeping.

- Earlier this year, *21st Century* won the Silver World Medal (2009) from the New York Festivals in the category "Magazine Format".

45. The Web-based UNifeed service, enabling media outlets to easily download broadcast-quality video, was launched only a year ago and has already gained a wide array of users, including major world broadcasters such as CNN International, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and CBS News. The number of UNifeed clients grew more than tenfold, bringing the current total to 1,122 in 27 countries on four continents. Web traffic analysis indicates that an ever-growing number of outlets rely on the service during major international developments, such as the crisis in Gaza early this year, when there was a noticeable spike in the frequency of downloads of UNifeed stories.

46. A similar trend was noticeable on the United Nations-branded channel on the online video-sharing site YouTube, which now features excerpts from the Secretary-General's statements, video from the United Nations Television series, special interviews with United Nations Messengers of Peace and Goodwill Ambassadors, statements by senior United Nations officials, and coverage of special events.

- The Secretary-General's news conference on the H1N1 influenza generated particularly strong interest, registering nearly 150,000 views.

United Nations photo service

47. The Department continues to distribute its photographs, including high-resolution digital images, on its web page (www.unmultimedia.org/photo/). The use of the United Nations Photo site remained high, with 29,501 downloads of high-resolution images made from January to June 2009. The Department is also exploring possibilities presented by an array of new media sites. In February 2009, it began posting selected United Nations photographs on Flickr.com, a popular photo-sharing site that attracts a large number of younger users and the Internet blogging community. The Department is also using popular online tools and social networking sites, such as RSS feeds and Twitter, to alert anyone following current events at the United Nations about the availability of new photo content on the United Nations Photo page.

- To date, the United Nations Flickr site (www.flickr.com/photos/un_photo) has recorded over 42,000 views.

D. Placement of op-ed articles

48. As part of its news-related operations, the Department continued to provide assistance to senior United Nations officials in the placement of their articles in newspapers and other media outlets around the world. Combining efforts of its staff in New York with the local expertise of United Nations information centres around the world, in the first half of 2009 the Department ensured the publication of 18 op-ed pieces, including 12 articles by the Secretary-General. The articles, which focused on some of the most urgent challenges facing the international community, appeared in a total of 142 newspapers around the globe in a wide range of languages.

- The Secretary-General's op-ed article entitled "Growing Green", authored jointly with the former Vice-President of the United States of America, Al Gore, was carried by 35 newspapers on all continents.

IV. Outreach and knowledge-sharing services

A. Dag Hammarskjöld Library

49. Through its training and customized coaching programmes and through direct research support services of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and its branch libraries in the map, legal and economic and social affairs fields, the Department of Public Information has been addressing the information needs of Secretariat and mission staff. Individuals are trained to understand how to better manage and access information and improve the utilization of the vast array of technology and information tools at their disposal. In 2009, the training and coaching programmes have been revised to respond to the loss of the Library training room owing to the Capital Master Plan. Emphasis is now placed on one-on-one and small group training rather than large group sessions. This will continue until an alternative training room is secured.

50. Access to high-quality information resources via electronic means continues to be facilitated by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, through the management of the

United Nations System Electronic Information Acquisition Consortium. Resources are made available to users at Headquarters and worldwide through United Nations system offices. Electronic access will be especially crucial during the implementation of the Capital Master Plan. Digitization of major Security Council documents from sessions held from 1946 to 1992, in English, French and Spanish was completed by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in April 2009, thereby expanding the coverage in the United Nations Official Document System (ODS). Collaboration continued with the Library of the United Nations Office at Geneva, which has been digitizing Arabic, Chinese and Russian Security Council documents. Digitization of major General Assembly documents in English, French and Spanish, from the forty-second to forty-seventh sessions, commenced in close cooperation with the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management of the United Nations Secretariat.

51. Over the past three years, the depository library programme has coordinated a series of regional workshops promoting a new direction for the programme and giving increased focus to information outreach and new roles for libraries as United Nations partners. Programmes in 2009 include a workshop for depository librarians representing 10 countries and United Nations information centre staff from southern Africa in Pretoria, Republic of South Africa, in March 2009 and a workshop held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, for representatives of nine depository librarians as well as representatives of local public and university libraries.

B. Department of Public Information and non-governmental organizations

52. Effective January 2009, association priority was given to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) where the Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations annual conference will be held. As the 2009 Conference will take place in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, the United Nations information centres in the region organized several workshops to inform NGOs about the process of affiliation with the Department of Public Information. As a result of their work and the support of the Government of Mexico, the Department of Public Information associated a total of 57 NGOs in the first half of 2009, with 49 NGOs coming from the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

53. In a comprehensive review of NGOs from around the world, the Department of Public Information formally disassociated 239 NGOs that were no longer active. The Department organized a two-day orientation programme for newly associated NGOs, as well as three whole-day communications workshops.

54. The sixty-second Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, the second to be held outside United Nations Headquarters in New York, entitled "For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!", is scheduled to be held in Mexico from 9 to 11 September 2009. The Conference is being organized in partnership with the Non-Governmental Organizations/Department of Public Information Executive Committee, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Government of Mexico.

55. The Department also continued to hold weekly briefings for NGOs. Briefings were held on a wide range of subjects, including the global economic crisis, sports for development, forced labour, sustainable peace and reconciliation, and

disarmament. Briefings were also used as an opportunity to mark the observance of International Days such as: the International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the first World Day of Social Justice and the International Day of Peacekeepers. The Department of Public Information has introduced several new series to highlight special topics of interest. Some examples include the "May I Ask a Question?" series, which allows participating NGOs to address questions to a high-level United Nations official or a stakeholder, and the "Issues of the Moment" series, which follows current events and how they impact civil society.

C. Journalists' Fellowship Programme

56. For the twenty-ninth consecutive year, the Department will bring a group of journalists from developing countries to New York in September-October 2009 to participate in the Reha i Al-Farra Memorial Journalists' Fellowship Programme. The six-week programme familiarizes junior and mid-level journalists with the work of the United Nations while giving them an opportunity to serve as temporary United Nations correspondents for their home media organizations. Countries selected for this year's programme are Bahrain, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kiribati, Mali, Mauritania, Panama, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

- Since its inception in 1981, 397 journalists from 160 countries have participated in the Journalists' Fellowship Programme of the Department of Public Information.

D. Creative Community Outreach Initiative

57. In recognition of the enormous potential for outreach through television and film, the Secretary-General's Creative Community Outreach Initiative was launched as a one-stop-shop for writers, directors, producers and broadcasters interested in portraying the United Nations and its issues in their work. The Initiative offers script review, technical advice and logistical assistance, and acts as a liaison with substantive United Nations offices to provide accurate information. Several noteworthy projects were completed during the first half of 2009. An episode of *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, which focused on child soldiers, was shot on location at United Nations Headquarters, the first primetime television series to be granted such access. Two special events (in New York and Los Angeles) co-hosted with the SCI FI Channel featured discussion with the cast and creators of *Battlestar Galactica* and United Nations experts on human rights, terrorism, children and armed conflict and post-conflict reconciliation. A two-day forum of film and discussion, "Envision: Addressing Global Issues through Documentaries", co-hosted with the Independent Filmmaker Project, focused on the Millennium Development Goals and women.

E. International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust

58. The fourth annual observance of the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust was held in January 2009 under the theme "An authentic basis for hope: Holocaust remembrance and education". The solemn ceremony also paid a tribute to the Second World War veterans who liberated the Nazi death camps. Other activities included an NGO briefing on "The Sephardic Jews in Greece: The untold story"; a screening of the film *Watermarks*; a book signing with the Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Project; and an exhibit entitled "Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race", developed by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

59. Helping to ensure that future generations will learn from the lessons of the Holocaust, the Department forged a pro-bono partnership with the University of London and the Holocaust Centre in the United Kingdom to launch the "Footprints for Hope" educational materials for middle schools around the world. Continuing to combat Holocaust denial, the Department distributed teaching guidelines on combating anti-Semitism, which were developed by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw. The Department also published a discussion paper on the history of the Jews in Europe in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The plight of the Roma and Sinti during the Holocaust was the subject of a second discussion paper and the theme of an exhibit at the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations, where the Department representative made opening remarks.

F. International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery

60. The Department organized the annual observance of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, as mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 62/122. On 25 March a cultural evening and concert entitled "Breaking the Silence, Beating the Drum" was staged in the General Assembly Hall. The event was the centrepiece of the commemoration, with a chorus of celebrities and dignitaries collectively honouring the resilience of the human spirit and triumph over adversity. The Department also organized a series of other activities to raise awareness of the Day and its aims. Further details are included in the report of the Secretary-General on the educational outreach programme on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery.*

G. Working with students

61. The Department of Public Information will organize the first ever United Nations-organized Global Model United Nations, which will be held in Geneva from 5 to 7 August 2009, under the theme "The Millennium Development Goals: Lifting the Bottom Billion out of Poverty". Global Model United Nations will be an annual event that will rotate to major United Nations duty stations around the world. The 2009 conference, to be developed as a best practice, will be a simulation of General Assembly plenary sessions and the Main Committees of the Assembly. More than

* To be issued.

500 university-level students from nearly 60 countries, ages 18 to 24, will participate. In preparation for the conference, two workshops were held at United Nations Headquarters to train students who will lead the Global Model United Nations Secretariat and General Assembly in Assembly procedure and the role of the Secretariat. In addition, a series of live webchats, with presentations by United Nations experts and members of the diplomatic corps, was organized on issues to be discussed at the conference. The GMUN conference website has received approximately 13,000 hits in one month. The United Nations Foundation, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Federal Credit Union provided financial support for the participation of students from developing and least developed countries.

62. In December 2009, the Department is organizing its fourteenth annual international student conference, which has been successful in raising awareness about the importance of peace and developing a culture of peace among youth worldwide. Approximately 800 students will be invited to United Nations Headquarters to interact with United Nations Messengers of Peace and with United Nations peacekeepers via videoconference on disarmament and non-proliferation. The United Nations Cyberschoolbus website will link to the live webcast of the event to encourage the participation of young people everywhere and provide educational resources on weapons of mass destruction, small arms, landmines and child soldiers. In addition, the Department of Public Information will publish and distribute a Student Action Toolkit on Disarmament just prior to the International Day of Peace.

H. Academic Impact initiative

63. A new programme of engagement with centres of higher education, learning and research has begun to facilitate a more direct input of the ideas generated by them into the policies, programmes and activities of the United Nations. The Academic Impact has been endorsed by more than 30 international scholastic networks of institutions. More than 100 individual institutions have affiliated with Academic Impact. In addition to geographical diversity, they command a range of thematic disciplines from art to medicine, technology to social science, representative of the vast terrain of the United Nations mandate itself.

I. Guided tours and briefings for visitors

64. As of 16 October 2008, the Guided Tour operation began shifting to a full time staff of 28 guides, now classified as Public Information Assistants with better contractual benefits than had been provided under the Agreement on Occasional Employment contract. The number of people who took a guided tour of the United Nations from 1 January to 30 June 2009 declined to 118,653, from 166,415 for the first six months of 2008. This was due in part to the change in the contractual status and attendant decrease in the number of tour guides. The introduction of audio tours later this year is expected to reverse this trend.

65. In conjunction with guided tours, visiting groups often request briefings by United Nations officials on United Nations-related topics. From 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, the Department of Public Information organized 777 in-house briefings, 58 outside speaking engagements and 26 videoconferences. During the

same period, the Public Inquiries Unit of the Department responded to approximately 19,338 communications, including from some 3,000 visitors, who requested written or other information about the Organization.

66. In connection with Capital Master Plan requirements, the Department has redesigned the tour route at its new location which wraps around the General Assembly Hall, creating a special corridor for the Millennium Development Goals, new graphic displays on human rights, peacekeeping and the Security Council as well as updated sections for the disarmament and decolonization displays. Several video elements have also been added to the new route, which was launched on 1 May 2009. Other improvements are ongoing.

J. Exhibitions

67. During the period, more than 30 exhibitions were displayed in the Visitors' Lobby, including those relating to General Assembly-mandated observances, such as the Holocaust remembrance and the remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

K. Print and online products and services

UN Chronicle

68. The *UN Chronicle* magazine's issue No. 1 & 2 of 2009, a double issue in English and French, had a special section devoted to disarmament. United Nations and non-governmental experts analysed trends in proliferation and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, small arms and anti-personnel mines. It also carried an article by the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict on girl soldiers and rape as a weapon of war. Issue 3 of 2009 will focus on climate change, with articles by a variety of expert writers.

Yearbook of the United Nations

69. The Department of Public Information finalized the preparation of volume 60 of the *Yearbook of the United Nations*, covering United Nations system activities during 2006, and started preparation of volume 61, which will cover developments during 2007. All 60 editions of the *Yearbook* published so far will also be available to an ever-widening audience on the new Yearbook website.

The United Nations Today

70. *The United Nations Today* (formerly: *Basic Facts About the United Nations*), now thoroughly revised and expanded, was published in English. Editions in French and Spanish are in preparation.

iSeek

71. Further progress has been made in the direction of carrying out the "One UN" initiative through internal communications designed for the Secretariat. iSeek, the Secretariat Intranet, is now launched as the default home page at all eight major duty stations, including Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Beirut, Geneva, Nairobi, New York, Santiago and Vienna. In addition to peacekeeping missions, all United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) field offices, all United Nations information centres sites, seven subregional offices of the five regional commissions and three

regional disarmament offices (the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) have iSeek access. Work is continuing to improve access for all offices, and ensuring access to the main iSeek content by funds and programmes.

72. Access to iSeek content is now available on the deleGATE website (www.un.int), which was redesigned in collaboration with the Working Group on Informatics to specifically meet the information needs of delegations working at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The website also includes links to essential information resources and delegate-specific tools.

Graphic design

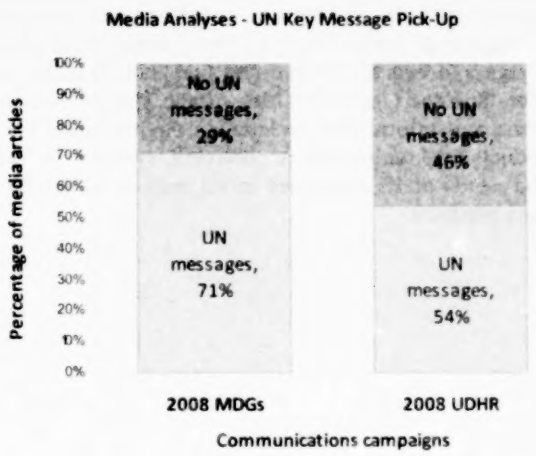
73. The graphic designers of the Department of Public Information, responsible for creating visual identity for the Department's products, created the UN4U graphic identifier that has been used to illustrate the United Nations overall reach in a colourful way, for both internal and external use. Several Web-based initiatives, such as United Nations Staff, Serving as One, UMOJA and ICT Fast Forward, have also used graphic identifiers to visually brand each initiative. The most recent example of such efforts is the graphic developed for the Unlearning Intolerance Seminar on "Cyber Hate: Danger in Cyber Space", which used the same design for various products such as vinyl banners, posters, postcards and the Web.

Sales and marketing

74. To achieve greater efficiency, a decision has been made to phase out the Sales and Marketing Office in Geneva and to centralize the operations at New York Headquarters. This important restructuring initiative will streamline the sales and marketing activities and permit the reallocation of necessary resources to create an online publishing platform of the United Nations publications. Related to these changes is the outsourcing of warehousing, order fulfilment and customer service operations of United Nations publications. These measures will help make the operation more efficient in the areas of customer service, reporting procedures and use of human resources.

V. A culture of evaluation

75. Continuing its emphasis on evaluation as a strategic component of its work, the Department of Public Information undertook long-term analysis of media trends on key issues. These analyses show that major conferences boost overall volume of coverage, and that United Nations spokespeople continue to play an important role in conveying key United Nations messages. A changing media landscape has increased the importance of alternate channels of communication, such as using new social media tools. One key finding of the evaluation of the communications campaign to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was that websites with interactive features attract more visitors.



76. These findings have led to two initiatives. First, guidelines to govern which technologies can be used on United Nations websites are being developed. Secondly, the Department has created a task force that will explore ways in which the Department of Public Information can effectively use new media on the Internet.

77. The Department of Public Information is also taking steps to revise its methods of collecting user feedback. For example, United Nations Radio now combines web download data with the information from stations receiving programmes by more traditional methods. The result is a more accurate picture of usage patterns and shows that United Nations Radio's programming is used by a wider spectrum of radio stations than was previously estimated.

VI. Conclusions

78. Bearing in mind the information provided in the present report, the following conclusions are highlighted:

(a) The Department of Public Information has made progress, both in terms of expanding its outreach and delivering the Organization's messages on priority areas.

(b) Media analyses carried out by the Department have reinforced the importance of high-profile events as a powerful platform for garnering global media attention. The assessments have also shown that in a rapidly changing media environment, the Department can no longer rely on press releases and press conferences as the primary vehicle for promoting and disseminating news and information about the United Nations. It has to use additional creative channels for providing timely, accurate, impartial, comprehensive and coherent information to the widest possible global audience.

(c) The Department is actively enhancing and diversifying the range of its programmes, products and services for Member States, civil society, youth and the general public. It initiates and coordinates effective communications strategies on

priority issues and carries out communications campaigns to support the substantive goals of the Organization, with the objective of broadening an understanding of its work. It is also expanding and forming new partnerships with different constituencies to engage and educate people and their communities worldwide to encourage support for the ideals and activities of the United Nations. And in a rapidly changing media and information technology environment, the Department has adapted its products and enhanced its delivery systems to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of its audiences in all regions of the world for text, audio, visual and photo products.

United Nations A/64/263

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 August 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Items 50 and 114 of the provisional agenda*

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. In 2000, at the Millennium Summit, world leaders came together to chart out an ambitious course for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. In the framework of this strong and unequivocal political commitment, Heads of State and Government vowed in particular to make the right to development a reality for everyone and resolved to create an environment conducive to sustainable development and the elimination of poverty. They further committed themselves to the achievement by 2015 of concrete and measurable goals, known as the Millennium Development Goals. Achievement of those goals, which are based on the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s, was thought necessary to undergird the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development. World leaders understood that societies could not thrive if their health was threatened by preventable communicable diseases, their children lacked basic education, their young people lacked opportunities and their women empowerment. Nor would populations prosper if we continued to delay action to put our development courses on a path ensuring environmental sustainability.

2. In 2005, at the World Summit, world leaders recognized, inter alia, the vital role played by the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields in shaping a broad development vision and in identifying commonly agreed objectives, which had contributed to improving human life in

* A/64/150.

09-44932 (E) 260809

Please recycle

different parts of the world (see General Assembly resolution 60/1). Although they were encouraged by the reductions in poverty registered in some countries, they remained concerned about the slow and uneven progress towards poverty eradication and the realization of other development goals in some regions. At the same time, world leaders underscored the interdependent nature of the modern world and reaffirmed their commitment to the global partnership for development set out in the Millennium Declaration,[1] the Monterrey Consensus[2] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.[3]

3. Today, as we face a global economy weakened by the financial crisis and we witness the ongoing erosion of the gains made in improving lives, especially those of the most vulnerable, we must make sustainable development our central goal. As measures are taken to overcome the crisis, we must find effective ways of securing the progress we have already made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

4. Concerned about the effects of the crisis, the President of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly and I co-hosted a high-level event in 2008 to raise awareness about the challenges still remaining to reach the Millennium Development Goals and to elicit further commitments to close the funding gap. The event successfully engaged Governments, civil society and the private sector, generating significant pledges to, among other things, ensure food security, boost education and combat malaria. The event proved that it is important to take stock of where we stand, to identify the obstacles remaining and to provide concrete proposals to surmount them and accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Encouraged by the momentum created thus far, I recommended that Member States consider holding a review conference with all stakeholders in 2010, to evaluate international performance in fulfilling commitments to deliver on the Goals.

5. In its resolution 63/302, the General Assembly decided to convene in 2010, at the commencement of its sixty-fifth session, a high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly with the participation of heads of State and Government on dates to be decided by the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

6. Being held just five years before the deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals and at a time of uncertainty regarding the soundness of the world economy, this high-level plenary meeting will be an event of decisive importance. It will build, inter alia, on the outcomes of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development)[4] and the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development[5] to reinforce the global partnership for development and support strategies to prevent backsliding and

---

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] See General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 63/303, annex.

accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

7. Also in resolution 63/302, the General Assembly requested that I submit a report at the beginning of its sixty-fourth session to serve as basis for further consultations on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level plenary meeting. The present report is submitted in response to that request. Bearing in mind the points made above, the Assembly may wish to ensure that the scope of the proposed meeting is consistent with the Millennium Declaration and has the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals at its core.

8. In accordance with resolution 55/162, I will present a comprehensive report on progress achieved towards implementing the Millennium Declaration. I propose to focus that report on the results and benchmarks achieved, the identification of gaps in implementation and strategies for reducing them. That report together with a special edition of the annual report on the Millennium Development Goals and the report by the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force could provide the needed background documentation for the 2010 high-level plenary meeting.

9. The recommendations made in the present report are based on the experience accumulated to date in organizing the 2000 Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and other special sessions, high-level dialogues and other meetings of the General Assembly.

II. Modalities, format and organization of the high-level plenary meeting

A. Duration and timing

10. Given that the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly will start on 14 September 2010 and that, in its resolution 63/302, the Assembly decided to convene a high-level plenary meeting at the commencement of that session, the Assembly may wish to consider holding the high-level plenary meeting over three days choosing one of the following three options: (a) from Saturday, 18 September to Monday, 20 September, inclusive; (b) on Friday, 17 September, Saturday, 18 September and Monday, 20 September (there would be no meeting on Sunday, 19 September); or (c) from Wednesday, 15 September to Friday, 17 September 2010, inclusive. In all cases, the general debate would commence on Tuesday, 21 September 2010, as already scheduled. Options (a) and (b) are proposed to facilitate the highest possible representation, in a cost-effective manner, at both the high-level plenary meeting and the general debate.

B. Structure and format

11. The General Assembly may wish to structure the high-level plenary meeting around nine plenary meetings, with three held each day in order to accommodate statements by all Member States. Despite this allocation of time, oral statements would have to be kept short on the understanding that Member States might circulate more extensive texts.

12. The Assembly may also wish to consider convening four interactive round-table meetings in parallel to the plenary meetings. The Assembly may wish to decide between the two following options: (a) each of the four round-table meetings could cover the entire agenda of the meeting so as to provide both an integrated view and highlight the interlinkages among the different issues under consideration; or (b) each of the four round-table meetings could focus on a theme reflecting specific development challenges.

13. Following standard practice, the round-table meetings would be closed to the media and the general public.

C. Participation in the plenary meetings

14. In resolution 63/302, the General Assembly decided that the high-level plenary meeting should be held at the level of heads of State and Government. I strongly support that decision and encourage all Member States to participate in the high-level plenary meeting at the highest level.

15. With regard to observer delegations, the Assembly may wish to consider following its established practice.

16. For security reasons and given the space limitations of the United Nations building, the broad participation of civil society is unfortunately not possible. However, I believe that civil society can make a valuable contribution to the preparatory process in terms of both substantive contributions and by raising awareness of the issues. The Assembly, therefore, may wish to hold informal interactive hearings with civil society organizations prior to the high-level meeting.

17. With regard to the participation of civil society in the high-level plenary meeting itself, the General Assembly may wish to adopt the practice followed in the 2005 World Summit. Time permitting, one representative of each of three categories (non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector), selected during the preparatory activities for the high-level plenary meeting in consultation with the President of the General Assembly, could be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings.

D. Participation in the interactive round-table meetings

18. Should the Assembly decide to convene interactive round-table meetings as in previous high-level meetings, the chairpersons of the round tables would be heads of State and Government and the participation of Member States in each of the round-table meetings would be subject to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Member States would be encouraged to be represented at the highest level.

19. In addition, the Assembly may wish to make specific provisions to allow the participation in the round-table meetings of heads of entities of the United Nations system as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector.

20. As in previous meetings of this kind, summaries of the deliberations of the interactive round-table meetings could be presented orally by the chairpersons of the round tables at the concluding plenary meeting of the high-level plenary meeting.

E. Preparatory activities: informal interactive hearings

21. The Assembly may wish to consider organizing informal interactive hearings with civil society organizations prior to the high-level plenary meeting, as was done at the 2005 World Summit. The hearings could take place over the course of two days and include four sessions. As in previous events of this type, the President of the General Assembly would preside over the informal interactive hearings and each session could consist of presentations by invited participants from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, and include an exchange of views with Member States.

22. The hearings could be open to the participation of accredited representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector, Member States and observers of the General Assembly.

23. The Assembly may wish to entrust its President to determine the list of invited participants and the exact format and organization of the hearings, in consultation with Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector.

24. In order to facilitate the participation in the hearings of non-governmental and civil society organizations from developing countries, the Assembly may wish to urge Member States and others to make contributions to a trust fund set up specifically to support this activity.

F. Outcome of the high-level plenary meeting

25. Ten years have passed since world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration and reaffirmed at the 2005 World Summit their unwavering resolve to address collectively the global challenges of our time. I cannot urge Member States too strongly to engage constructively and as a matter of priority in the preparation of the 2010 high-level plenary meeting. The decisions they take at this major gathering will indicate whether we remain faithful to the broad multilateral policy framework agreed upon in the Millennium Declaration and follow-up conferences. More specifically, they will determine whether we can achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals by the deadline we have set for ourselves. For that reason, the Assembly may wish to adopt a bold action-oriented political declaration as the outcome of the 2010 high-level plenary meeting so that the meeting not only results in a renewal of existing commitments but can decisively galvanize coordinated action among all stakeholders and elicit the funding necessary to ensure the achievement of all crucial development goals by 2015. Such an outcome should also ensure that further progress can proceed on a solid foundation so as to improve the lives of all people and lift those of the millions living at the bottom. Time is short. We must seize this historic moment to act responsibly and decisively for the common good.